



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/893,389	06/28/2001	Brent Keeth	DB000575-014	6114
7590	04/14/2004		EXAMINER	
Edward L. Pencoske Thorp Reed & Armstrong, LLP One Oxford Centre 301 Grant Street, 14th Floor Pittsburgh, PA 15219-1425			TRAN, MICHAEL THANH	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2818	
DATE MAILED: 04/14/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>
	09/893,389	KEETH ET AL.
	<b>Examiner</b> Michael T Tran	Art Unit 2818

-- Th **MAILING DATE** of this communication app ears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### **Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

1)  Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 March 2004.

2a)  This action is **FINAL**.                    2b)  This action is non-final.

3)  Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

4)  Claim(s) 444-447 and 449-475 is/are pending in the application.  
4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)  Claim(s) 444-447 and 449-471 is/are allowed.

6)  Claim(s) 472 is/are rejected.

7)  Claim(s) 473-475 is/are objected to.

8)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

9)  The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)  The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a)  accepted or b)  objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)  The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

12)  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a)  All    b)  Some \* c)  None of:  
1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

1)  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
2)  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
3)  Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 8.  
4)  Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_.  
5)  Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)  
6)  Other: \_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

1. In response to the Faxed Communication dated March 2, 2004, claims 444-447 and 449-475 are active in this application as a result of the cancellation of claims 1-443 and 448.

### ***Information Disclosure Statement***

2. The information disclosure statement filed September 09, 2002 has been considered.

In order to avoid further delay, the Examiner asks that Applicant's representative go over his record to see whether there are any information disclosure statements that have not been initialed. If there are, please resubmit them in response to this Office Action so they can be initialed.

### ***Claim Objections***

3. Claims 473-475 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

### ***Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102***

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in-

(1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

5. Claim 472 is rejected under 35 U.S.C 102(b) as being anticipated by Keeth et al. [U.S. Patent #5,552,739].

With respect to claim 472, a device [figure 3] for an integrated circuit having a voltage supply [110 of figure 3] responsive to a voltage external [V.sub.ccx of figure 3] to the integrated circuit and generating a feedback signal [feedback loop of figure 3], said device comprising: a first circuit portion [110 of figure 3] responsive to the external voltage for producing a first output signal [output of 110 of figure 3] indicative of whether the external voltage is above a predetermined value [external is in the range of 3-5 volts]; and a second circuit portion [A1 of figure 3] responsive to said first output signal and the feedback signal for producing a first enable signal [via 76 of figure 3] to enable the voltage supply.

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

6. Claims 444-447 and 449-471 are allowable over the prior art of record.

7. The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for the indication of

allowable subject matter: the prior art of records does not show (in addition to the other elements in the claim) the following:

- ❖ A first circuit responsive to a first external signal for producing a first output signal indicative of whether the first external signal is greater than a first predetermined voltage; and a second circuit responsive to the first output signal and the second external signal for producing a first enable signal to enable the first voltage supply.
- ❖ A first voltage detector constructed of substantially identical p-channel and n-channel devices for producing a first output signal indicative of a first external signal being greater than a predetermined voltage substantially independently of process variations; and a reset circuit responsive to said first voltage detector for outputting said first output signal when said first external signal is stable.
- ❖ A first circuit portion includes: a first voltage detector constructed of p-type components and responsive to an external voltage for producing a first signal indicative of the external voltage being greater than a predetermined value; and a second voltage detector constructed of n-type components and responsive to the external voltage for producing a second signal indicative of the external voltage being greater than said predetermined value.
- ❖ A logic circuit responsive to a first output signal and a feedback signal for producing an output signal; and a latch responsive to said output signal of said logic circuit for producing a first enable signal.

❖ A reset circuit interposed between a first circuit portion and a second circuit portion for receiving a first output signal from said first circuit portion and for terminating said first output signal when predetermined stability requirements are not meet.

***Conclusion***

8. When responding to the Office action, Applicants are advised to provide the Examiner with line and page numbers of the application and/or references cited to assist the Examiner in the prosecution of this case.
9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Michael T. Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-1795. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 7:30-6:00 P.M.

10. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-1650.



Michael T. Tran  
Art Unit 2818  
April 7, 2004